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AUTHOR Smith, Glenn P.
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ABSTRACT

Drawing on 1988-89 transfer data provided by the California Postsecondary Education Commission, the University of California (UC), and the California State Universities (CSU), this paper provides a comprehensive portrait of the flow and performance of transfer students statewide and of transfers from the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) in California. First, statewide data are examined, revealing a resurgence in the number of community college students transferring to the UC and CSU systems; a 20% increase in the rate of transfers to the UC system; a 6% increase in transfers to the CSU system; and a significant role being played by the state's community colleges in preparing underrepresented minorities to continue to the university level, with 73% of Hispanic college students and 70% of Black college students enrolled in a community college. Next, the SMCCCD's transfer function is compared to state norms, revealing the following: (1) SMCCCD transfer students in 1988-89 were more ethnically diverse than the statewide transfer group; (2) in 1988-89, approximately 80% of SMCCCD's transfer students enrolled at a CSU campus, 13% attended a UC campus, and 7% transferred to private institutions; (3) SMCCCD students who transferred at the junior level to CSU had a continuation rate of 91%, compared with the 87% rate of all community college transfers; (4) the average grade point average (GPA) earned by SMCCCD students during their first year of coursework at CSU campuses (2.66) was higher than both the statewide figure for all community college transfers (2.62) and the figure for CSU native students (2.64); and (5) the group of SMCCCD students transferring to the UC system in fall 1988 reported a persistence rate of 93.3%, compared with 91.8% for all community college transfers. (JMC)

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REPORT ON THE SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
TRANSFER STUDENTS
1988-89

Glenn P. Smith
Chancellor-Superintendent

Submitted to the Members of the Board of Trustees

October 31, 1990

Board Report No. 90-10-3C

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BOARD REPORT NO. 90-10-3C

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Glenn P. Smith, Chancellor-Superintendent

REPORT ON SMCCCD TRANSFER STUDENTS - 1988-89

Each year, the California Postsecondary Education Commission, the University of California, and the California State Universities release reports on community college transfer students. When reviewed in combination, as was the case for this report, they provide a comprehensive portrait of the flow and performance of transfer students from the San Mateo County Community College District.

The attached report begins with a discussion of the Statewide transfer function and then focuses on District transfer students relative to their enrollment, characteristics, academic performance and persistence at four-year universities. While this information provides an overall perspective on transfer in the District, caution should be exercised in drawing inferences about the District's "transfer rate". Currently, no consistent definition of a transfer rate exists, although several formulas are under consideration.

Transfer Report Highlights

Statewide Highlights

- Following a decade of declining transfer enrollment ending in 1986, California has experienced a resurgence in the number of community college students transferring to the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems.
- The most significant increase in transfers for the two-year period studied was reported by the UC system (20%) while the CSU system experienced a more modest increase (6%). However, it should be noted that CSU enrolls five times as many students as the UC system.
- Seventy-three percent of Hispanic and 70% of Black college students in California are enrolled in a community college; this underscores the critical role the colleges play in preparing underrepresented students to continue to the university level.
- From 1986 to 1988, Hispanic transfer students to the UC and CSU systems has increased by 17%; Black transfer enrollment has increased by 11%. These statistics indicate that underrepresented students are finding greater access to the university systems through community colleges.

SMCCCD Highlights

- The District's number of transfers has remained stable between 1986 and 1988. The two major factors believed to impact on the number of transfers include the decline in high school enrollment and high university-going rate in San Mateo County.
- SMCCCD transfer students in 1988-89 were more ethnically diverse than the Statewide transfer group. The ethnicity of the District's transfer group closely mirrors the percentage of that group in the Collegewide population.
- SMCCCD transfers are typical of their counterparts Statewide in that they tend to transfer to universities within close proximity to their homes. Of the District's CSU transfers, 47% attended SFSU, 13% attended SJSU, 9% attended CSU Hayward, and 8% attended CSU Sacramento. Of transfers to the UC system, 47% attended UC Berkeley while 17% transferred to UC Davis. The largest number of transfers to private institutions selected College of Notre Dame and the University of San Francisco.
- In 1988-89, approximately 80% of the District's transfer students enrolled at a CSU campus, 13% attended a UC campus, and 7% transferred to private institutions.
- Of the District's 1988-89 transfer students, 62% attended CSM, 22% attended Skyline and 15% attended Cañada.
- Districtwide, SMCCCD students who transferred at the junior level to the CSU attained a higher continuation rate (91%) than that of all community college transfers (87%).
- The average GPA earned by SMCCCD students during their first year of coursework at CSU campuses (2.66) was higher than both the Statewide figure for all community college transfers (2.62) and CSU native students (2.64).
- Districtwide transfers attending San Francisco State University earned an average GPA (2.82) which was higher than GPAs earned by their counterparts from other community colleges (2.81) and all SFSU natives (2.71). (This is an especially meaningful since nearly 40% of all District transfers in 1988 attended San Francisco State University.)
- The group of SMCCCD students transferring to the UC system in Fall 1988 reported a persistence rate (93.3) which was higher than the rate of all community college transfers (91.8).
- Seventy-seven percent of the District's transfer students to the UC system in Fall 1988 were not eligible for the University upon high school graduation. This statistic is an measurement of the effectiveness of the SMCCCD's transfer function.

REPORT ON SMCCCD TRANSFER STUDENTS - 1988-89

Following a decade of declining transfer enrollment, beginning in 1977, California has experienced a resurgence in the number of community college students transferring to the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems. Contributing to the improvement in the transfer function were three major legislative mandates--recommendations established by the Commission for Review of the Master Plan for Higher Education, the Matriculation Act of 1986, and Community College Reform Bill AB 1725--and concerted efforts by the three systems of public higher education.

According to the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), 1988 was the second consecutive year that the number of transfers to the two public university systems has increased. While CPEC cautions that two years do not constitute a trend, the outlook for transfers appears to be on the upswing. This report will focus on the changes in the community college transfer function between 1986 and 1988 on a Statewide basis and within the San Mateo County Community College District.

(Note: Limited available information on transfers to the State's independent colleges and universities is included in this report; no data is currently available on transfer students attending out-of-state or foreign institutions.)

STATEWIDE TRANSFER PROFILE

University of California

While both the UC and CSU systems have experienced increases in transfer students since 1986, the University has reported the largest gain. Specifically, between 1986 and 1988, Fall transfer enrollment to the UC system increased by over 20% or 1073 students (12.5% in Fall 1987 followed by 8.6% in 1988). In Fall 1988, the University reported its largest transfer enrollment since 1978. The UC campuses enrolling the largest number of community college transfers systemwide in 1988 were: Los Angeles (20%), Berkeley (19.3%), Davis (16.0%) and Santa Barbara (15.5%)

The Davis campus experienced the largest increase in new transfers in Fall 1988 (22%) followed by Santa Barbara (21%). Berkeley enrolled only eight more new transfer students in Fall 1988 although transfers in 1987 increased by a staggering 43%.

Factors contributing to the significant increase in transfers to the UC system as cited by CPEC include:

1. new and improved transfer agreements between community colleges and UC campus;
2. enrollment planning undertaken by UC to accommodate more qualified community college transfers;
3. improved general communication on transfer and articulation matters; and
4. the requirement on impacted campuses that community college transfers complete lower-division work before applying for junior-level admission in combination with early and continuing counseling of community college transfers provided by University staff.

California State Universities

In 1986, CSU enrolled its smallest group of new community college transfers since the 1960's. However, in the past two years, the CSU has reported a modest increase of 6% (1632 students). Some have speculated that CSU's small increase is attributed to the increased number of transfers to the UC system who otherwise might have attended a CSU campus. Despite CSU's more gradual increase in transfers, it is important to note that the CSU system enrolls almost five times as many students as the University of California system.

In Fall, 1988, 11 of the 19 campuses reported gains in community college transfers over the previous year. Three of the four reporting the largest growth are located in the San Francisco Bay Area: San Francisco (20%); Sacramento (15%); San Jose (12%).

Independent Institutions

According to the 47 independent colleges and universities that reported transfer data, these institutions also provide a significant opportunity for community college transfers. Due to erratic reporting on the part of the independent colleges and universities, year-to-year comparisons do not provide conclusive data. Therefore, statistics for private institutions in Figure 1. are provided for purposes of general information.

The following table displays community college transfer students to UC, CSU and private institutions over a three-year period and the percentage of total first-time transfer pool Statewide.

Figure 1. California Community College Transfers
1986-88

	UC	CSU	Private	Totals
Fall 1986	4861 (12.6%)	27761 (71.8%)	6051 (15.6%)	38673 (100%)
Fall 1987	5467 (12.8%)	28257 (66.5%)	8755 (20.6%)	42479 (100%)
Fall 1988	5934 (14.6%)	29393 (72.5%)	5238 (12.9%)	40565 (100%)

Ethnic Distribution

According to CPEC, 73% of Hispanic and 70% of Black college students in California are enrolled in a community college. This underscores the community colleges' vital role in encouraging and preparing underrepresented students for transfer.

Between 1986 and 1988, Hispanic transfer student admission has increased to both systems--by 49% to UC and 12% to the CSU. In 1988, both the UC and CSU systems enrolled the largest number of Hispanic transfers since reporting of ethnic transfer data began in 1982.

Since 1986, Black transfers have increased by 11% to the UC and CSU systems collectively, and by the same percentage to each system. However, concern about Black transfer rates continues as the numbers remain smaller than 1983, a peak year for Black transfer students. In Fall 1988, Black students represented 5.5% of the total transfer population; 89% transferred to the CSU while the remaining 11% transferred to the UC system.

Asian students have a higher rate of university eligibility as freshmen than all other ethnic groups. Consequently, less than one-half of those enrolled in postsecondary education in California attended a community college. However, a large percentage of Asian community college students transfer. Between 1986-88, Asian transfer students have increased by 7%; more specifically, an increase of 24% to the UC system and a 19% increase to the CSU system. Nearly 13% of all Fall 1988 community college transfers were of Asian origin.

In 1988, 32% of all new transfer students to UC were non-white and the campus which enrolled the most ethnically diverse pool of transfers was UCLA; at CSU the non-white group of new transfers comprised 31% and CSULA was the most ethnically diverse relative to transfer students.

The charts on the following page depict the ethnic distribution of community college transfer students to the UC and CSU systems and to both systems combined.

Figure 2.

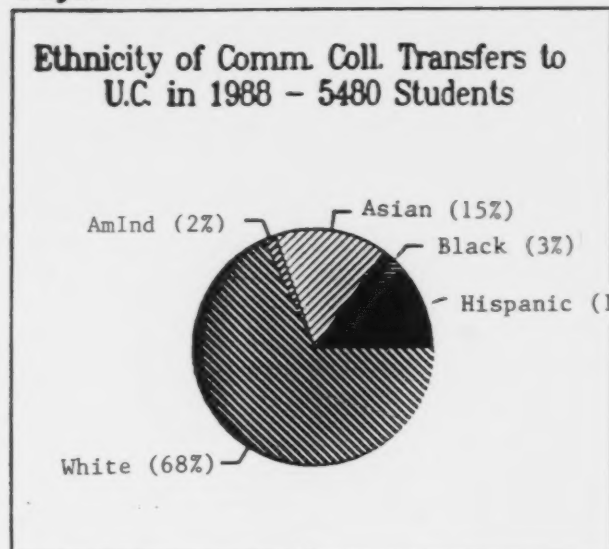


Figure 3.

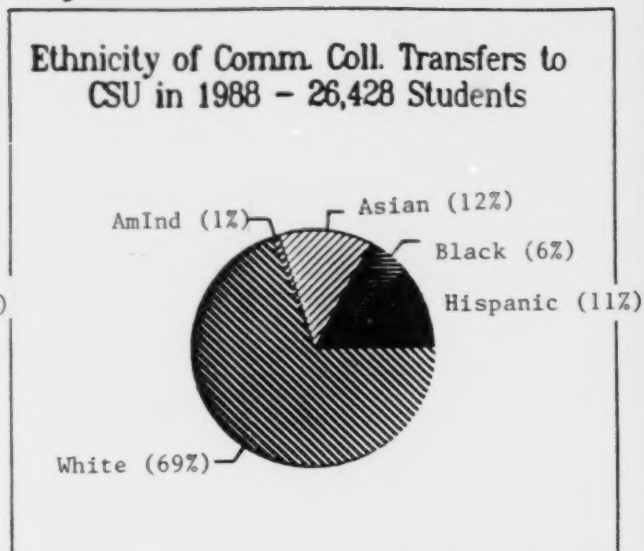
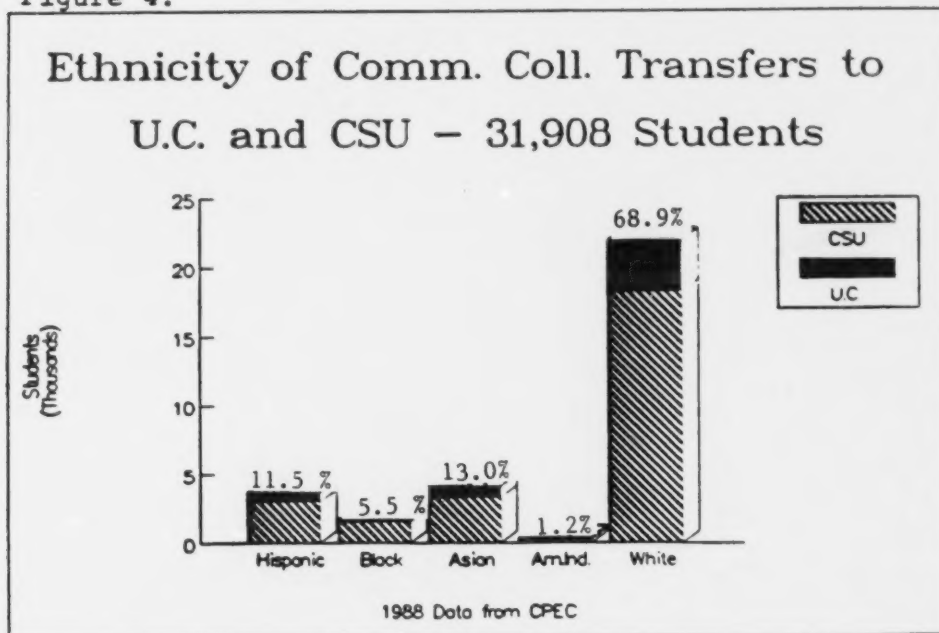


Figure 4.



SMCCCD TRANSFER STUDENTS

The "Transfer Pool"

The approximately 30,000 students who enroll at the Colleges each year do so with various educational goals. The most commonly cited goals include transfer to a four-year college/university, to earn an associate degree or certificate, to enhance employment opportunities and obtain job skills, and for personal enrichment. Approximately 30% of the students Districtwide indicate on their applications that they plan to transfer after completing coursework at one of the Colleges.

While no consistent definition of a transfer rate exists, certain assumptions can be made to determine the size of the District's pool of potential transfer students.

The average transfer student in the District enrolls in 8.5 units per semester. Using this rate of progression, it would take the average student three-and-one-half years to satisfy the 56-unit transfer requirement for upper-division standing. Based on this profile, approximately one-third of the transfer pool (or only about 3000 students) would be eligible to transfer each year. In 1988-89, about 50% of those who were eligible to transfer did transfer to a four-year college or university.

Figure 5 shows the number of District students who transferred to the UC and CSU systems and independent institutions in 1986-87 to 1988-89. It is important to note that these figures only include first-time transfer students; District transfers from previous years still attending the universities are not included in this report.

Figure 5. Distribution of SMCCCD Transfers
3-Year Profile

	UC	CSU	Private	Total Transfers
86-87	163	1282	128	1573
87-88	187 (14.7%)	1230 (-4.0%)	117 (-8.5%)	1534 (-2.4%)
88-89	202 (8.0%)	1259 (2.3%)	114 (-2.5%)	1575 (2.6%)

In 1988-89, approximately 80% of the District's transfer students enrolled at a CSU campus, 13% attended a UC campus and the remaining 7% transferred to independent institutions. Compared with Statewide (Figure 1), a significantly higher percentage of District students transfer to CSU campuses while the percentage to private institutions is lower and the percentage to UC campuses is very similar to that of the State.

Although the total number of District transfers dropped by 2.4% (39 students) in 1987-88, the District regained the loss in 1988-89. Between 1986 and 1989, transfer students to UC increased by 24%, while transfers to the CSU system dropped slightly (2% or 23 students). Transfers to independent institutions show a decline, however, because of the year-to-year variance in specific institutions which report, data on this group is unreliable.

Two of the major factors which are presumed to contribute to the relative stability of the District's number of transfers include:

County College-Going Rate - Approximately 75% of all San Mateo County high school graduates enroll in college within a year of graduation. This percentage gives the County the distinction of having one of the highest college-going rates in the State. Of this group, 25% enroll at a 4-year college or university as freshmen, which is well above the Statewide average. This statistic indicates the considerable challenge faced by the District's Colleges in attracting students who are academically well-prepared for college-level studies.

Declining Number of High School Graduates - Between 1980 and 1987, the number of County high school graduates decreased by 23%. This decrease also translates into a smaller pool of potential community college transfer students.

In comparing the distribution of transfer students throughout the District, approximately 62% attended CSM, 22% attended Skyline College, 15% attended Cañada (which is reflective of the College's sizeable enrollment of non-traditional students).

ETHNICITY OF SMCCCD TRANSFERS*

The group of Fall 1988 SMCCCD transfer students was more ethnically diverse than their counterparts Statewide. Specifically, 33% of the District's transfers in Fall 1988 were from non-white ethnic groups compared with 31% Statewide. Districtwide, the percentage of Hispanic and Asian transfers is also higher than the Statewide figures while percentages of Black and White transfer students are below those of the State. The following table displays the percentage of transfers by ethnicity. The figures in parentheses represent each group's percentage of enrollment in the District during Fall 1987.

*Ethnic data not available from independent institutions

Figure 6. Ethnic Distribution
SMCCCD Transfers to UC and CSU

(figures expressed as percentage)

	Hispanic	Black	Asian/P.I./ Filipino	Amer. Indian	White
District	12.4(11.8)	3.7(4.8)	16.2(14.3)	1.1(.6)	66.6(68.4)
Statewide	11.5	5.5	12.9	1.2	68.9

SMCCCD TRANSFERS TO SPECIFIC UC AND CSU CAMPUSES

The following table details the number of District transfers to specific UC and CSU campuses. The numbers in Figure 7 reflect only Fall 1988 semester transfer students; full-year figures were not provided. Since Fall-only figures comprise more than 60% of the District's total number of transfers, the following data can be considered representative of the entire transfer group.

Figure 7. SMCCCD TRANSFER ACTIVITY TO SPECIFIC CAMPUSES
FALL 1988

UC CAMPUS	DISTRICT TOTALS
UC Berkeley	75
UC Davis	27
UC Irvine	7
UC Los Angeles	12
UC San Diego	13
UC Santa Barbara	17
UC Santa Cruz	9
UC Riverside	1
UC Totals	161

CSU CAMPUS	DISTRICT TOTALS
CSU Chico	44
CSU Dominguez Hills	1
CSU Fresno	13
CSU Fullerton	1
CSU Hayward	74
Humboldt State	9
CSU Long Beach	18
CSU Los Angeles	2
CSU Northridge	5

CSU Pomona	5
CSU Sacramento	64
CSU San Bernardino	1
San Diego State	34
San Francisco State	386
San Jose State	108
CSU San Luis Obispo	44
Sonoma State	17
CSU Stanislaus	4
CSU Totals	830

Approximately 17% of the District's transfers to California's public universities attended a UC campus. It is significant to note that of this group, more than 75% were not UC-eligible as college freshmen. Among SMCCCD transfers to the UC system, the campuses of choice were Berkeley (47%) and Davis (17%).

Eighty-three percent of all District transfers to public universities in California in Fall 1988 attended a CSU campus; this percentage has remained relatively stable for the past several years. Over three-fourths of the District's transfers to the CSU system attended one of four campuses: San Francisco (47%), San Jose (13%), Hayward (9%), and Sacramento (8%). Of the CSU transfer pool, 60% attended CSM, 24% attended Skyline and 15% were Cañada students.

District transfer students are typical of their Statewide counterparts, according to CPEC, in that they tend to transfer to universities close to their homes.

SMCCCD Transfers to Specific Independent Colleges/Universities

Independent institutions most often selected by District transfer students are also those located within close proximity to where students reside. The institutions in which the largest number of District transfers enrolled in Fall 1988 and the percentage of the total pool of private university transfers were:

College of Notre Dame	33% (48 students)
University of San Francisco	18% (18 students)
Golden Gate University	9% (10 students)
Santa Clara University	7% (8 students)

67% (84 students of the total transfer group to independent institutions)

DISTRICT TRANSFERS TO CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES

Continuation Rates

The California State Universities compute continuation rates based on community college transfer students who enroll in the Fall semester and remain enrolled through first census of the following Spring semester. Continuation rates for Fall 1988 upper and lower division District transfers as reported by CSU academic performance reports are displayed in Figure 8.

Figure 8. Continuation Rates for Fall 1988 Transfers
(California State Universities)

	Upper-Division Transfers (Junior Standing)	Lower-Division Transfers
SMCCCD Transfers	91%	80%
All CC Transfers	87%	86%

SMCCCD students who transferred at the junior level attained a continuation rate which was higher than Statewide. The Districtwide rate for lower-division transfers (freshmen and sophomore level) was below the Statewide rate. (Note: Lower-division transfers from the District comprise approximately 12% of the total transfer pool to CSU campuses.)

The following table displays continuation rates for upper-division transfers to specific CSU campuses most frequently attended by District students.

Figure 9. Continuation Rates
at Specific CSU Campuses

	SFSU	SJSU	CSU Hayward	CSU Sacramento
SMCCCD Transfers	90%	90%	86%	88%
Statewide CC Transfers	88%	93%	83%	70%

According to the CSU's Statewide figures, there is a considerable difference in continuation rates for community college transfers among the various university campuses which may be indicative the individual campus efforts to retain students. However, the higher-than-average continuation rate of SMCCCD students

at San Francisco State University is significant in that nearly 50% of the District's transfers to CSU enroll at the San Francisco campus.

Figure 10. Continuation Rates
at CSU Campuses By Ethnicity

	SMCCCD Transfers	Statewide CC Transfers
Hispanic	87.4%	85.6%
Black	80.0%	81.8%
Asian/P.I./ Filipino	88.4%	88.5%
American Indian	100.0%	84.8%
White	89.5%	84.8%

Continuation rates by ethnicity of District transfers is higher than or very close to the Statewide rates. White, Hispanic and American Indian transfers from the three Colleges show higher continuation rates than their Statewide counterparts; Asian transfers match the Statewide rate; and Black students continuation rate is slightly lower than that of the State transfer group.

Academic Performance of SMCCCD Transfers at CSU

An indicator of the academic performance of transfer students is the grade point average earned during the first year of university-level work. Figure 11 displays SMCCCD students' transfer GPA and the CSU GPA. To compare performance of SMCCCD students with other CSU students, GPAs are also provided for all community college transfers and students who began at CSU at the freshmen level (CSU natives).

Figure 11. Grade Point Averages
Upper-Division Transfers at CSU, 1988-89

	Transfer GPA	CSU GPA
SMCCCD Transfers	2.81	2.66
Statewide CC Transfers	2.83	2.62
CSU Natives	----	2.64

Figure 11 shows that GPAs earned by SMCCCD students at the CSU were higher than those earned by their counterparts Statewide and CSU native students. These statistics indicate that SMCCCD students are well-prepared for university-level studies at CSU campuses. It is important to note that the drop in GPA (differential between

transfer and CSU GPA) during the first year at the CSU is characteristic of transfer students Statewide. CSU officials attribute this drop to several factors, including the adjustment to new and often much larger surroundings and the increased level in academic rigor found in upper-division coursework.

For a more detailed picture of academic achievement of transfers, GPAs are provided for the specific CSU campuses most often attended by SMCCCD students:

Figure 12. Grade Point Averages of SMCCCD Transfers at Specific CSU Campuses

	SFSU	SJSU	CSU Hayward	CSU Sacramento
SMCCCD Transfers	2.82	2.60	2.63	2.46
Statewide CC Transfers	2.81	2.63	2.73	2.56
CSU Natives	2.71	2.66	2.65	2.63

SMCCCD transfers to San Francisco State University earned GPAs which were higher than community college transfer students Statewide and CSU natives. This is especially meaningful as an indicator of transfer student performance since 46% of the District's CSU-going transfers in 1988 attended the San Francisco campus.

DISTRICT TRANSFERS TO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Persistence Rates

The University of California issues Academic Performance Reports on community college transfer students each year, but in a somewhat different format from CSU. One difference is that UC calculates "persistence rates" for transfer students entering in the Fall term and continuing through the end of the Spring term. Consequently, persistence rates indicate completion of the first academic year. The persistence rates for the District's transfers to UC in Fall 1988 are displayed below.

(Note: All figures in this section refer to regularly admitted students. Approximately 10% of the District transfers to UC in 1988 were admitted under "special action admits". The designation of special action indicates that the students did not meet regular admission requirements but who have special talents to contribute to the campus.)

Figure 13 indicates that District transfers to UC attain higher persistence rates than their Statewide counterparts.

Figure 13. Persistence Rates for Fall 1988 Transfers
(University of California)

SMCCCD Transfers	93.3%
Statewide CC Transfers	91.8%

Academic Performance of SMCCCD Students at UC

As stated earlier, a most significant statistic derived from the UC report indicates that 77% of the District transfers to the UC system in Fall 1988 were not eligible for the University upon high school graduation. This emphasizes the important role of the San Mateo County Community Colleges, in preparing students to gain access to and succeed in the much sought-after UC campuses.

The UC system computes mean GPA of community college students at the completion of the first year of coursework as an indicator of academic performance. The following figures reflect performance of SMCCCD students and compare their grade point average with that of all community college transfers. (Note: UC does not offer comparable data for native students.)

Figure 14. Mean Grade Point Average
Upper Division Transfers at UC, 1988-89

	Transfer GPA	UC GPA
SMCCCD Transfers	3.21	2.74
Statewide CC Transfers	3.27	2.82

As with CSU, the drop in GPA (difference between transfer GPA and UC GPA) during the first year at the University is characteristic of transfer students.

Community college students transferring to UC Berkeley amassed the highest mean transfer grade point average of their cohort group at all UC campuses. Nearly two-thirds of the District's transfer students to the UC system attended either Berkeley or Davis. Figure 15 displays grade point averages earned by SMCCCD students attending these two campuses. As a point of comparison, transfer grade point averages are shown in parentheses.

Figure 15. Mean Grade Point Average
at Specific UC Campuses, Fall 1988

	UC Berkeley	UC Davis
SMCCCD Transfers	2.84 (3.32)	2.79 (3.30)
Statewide CC Transfers	2.91 (3.43)	2.77 (3.24)

CONCLUDING REMARKS

As a result of recent Statewide efforts directed at strengthening the transfer function, an increased number of community college students are gaining access to California's public universities. In addition, the university systems' target recruitment of students from underrepresented ethnic groups has resulted in the largest non-white group of transfer students ever recorded. The proportionately low rate of eligibility of certain ethnic groups for freshman admission to a university emphasizes the community college's critical role in preparing a diverse student population for upper-division coursework.

The issue of providing greater educational access and equity remains a concern to postsecondary education leaders throughout the State who have given a priority to intersegmental articulation programs. Guaranteed admissions programs, a core transfer curriculum for UC, 2+2+2 articulated career programs, and the course articulation numbering system (CAN) are but a few examples of intersegmental activities designed to facilitate transfer. Additionally, the legislature has provided the impetus for a more effective transfer function through recommendations made by the Commission for Review of the Master Plan for Higher Education (which identified the transfer function as "a central institutional priority of all three public segments of postsecondary education"), the Matriculation Act of 1986, and the emphasis given to transfer in the Community College Reform Bill -- AB 1725. In light of the changing demographics of the State, improvement of the transfer function is anticipated to continue to be a "high-priority" educational issue.

In the San Mateo County Community College District, the number of students transferring shows little change over the past three years and, therefore, District transfer activity does not mirror the changing pattern Statewide. However, the stability in the number of District transfers over the past three years can be viewed with optimism, particularly when considering a) between 1980-87, the number of San Mateo County high school graduates has declined by approximately 23%; and b) that the County has a university-going rate among high school graduates of nearly 25% which outpaces the Statewide average by several percentage points.

Another positive aspect of the District's transfer function is highlighted in the university systems' academic performance reports.

These reports indicate that the District's transfer students show high rates of retention (referred to as continuation or persistence rates) at universities most frequently attended. Furthermore, they point out that SMCCCD students are achieving success in their academic programs as indicated by the competitive grade point averages earned at the universities. This information represents important evidence that District transfer students are well-prepared for the academic challenges of university-level coursework.

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